

American English LIVE!

Connecting to Learn: Growing Professionally
through Teacher-to-Teacher Engagement

March 25th @ 8 am or 1 pm EDT



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Connecting to Learn: Growing Professionally through Teacher-to-Teacher Engagement

Think about the best teaching strategies you have ever learned.

Did you learn them from another teacher?

Connecting and conversing with peers can offer teachers great opportunities for professional growth.

This session will:

- explore how to expand our professional networks and build community, both inside and outside of our schools and institutions
- share ways to foster inspiring conversations with colleagues during such activities as reading discussions and lesson shares
- examine ways of making the most of faculty meetings and professional conferences



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Christopher Stillwell



Dr. Christopher Stillwell has taught English as a Second or Foreign Language in Spain, Japan, and the US, and he has worked as a teacher educator in such places as Egypt, Peru, and Laos.

He has edited two books for the TESOL International Association on language teaching insights from other fields.

Currently, he is an instructor and advisory board member for University of California Irvine's online TESOL certificate program, and he is a professor of ESL at College of the Sequoias.



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Connecting to Learn Growing Professionally through Teacher-to-Teacher Engagement

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Thank You



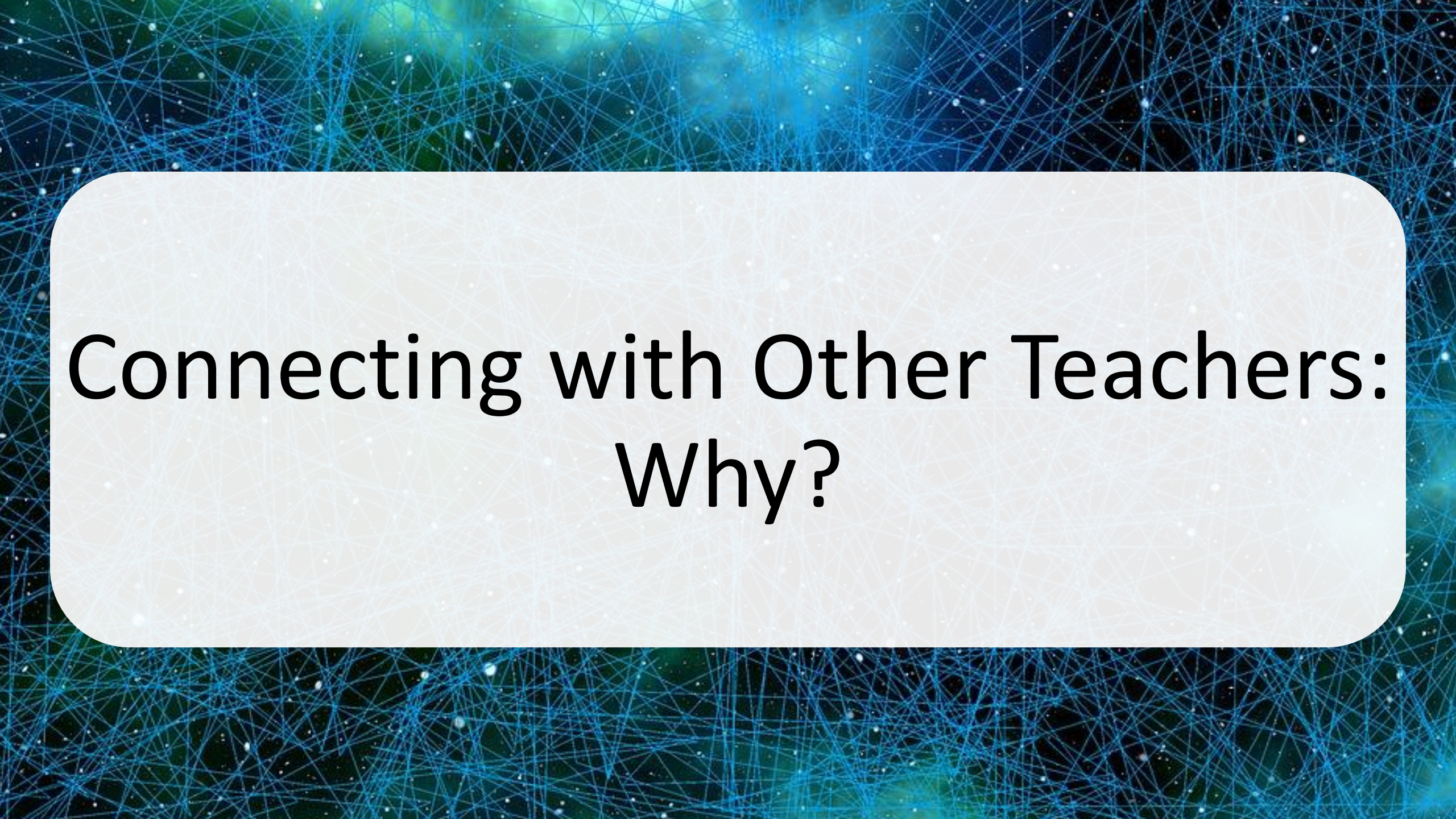
Overview

- Teacher-to-Teacher Engagement: What Is It?
- Connecting with Other Teachers
 - Why?
 - How?
- How to Learn from Other Teachers
- Practical Applications

What is teacher-to-teacher engagement and connection?

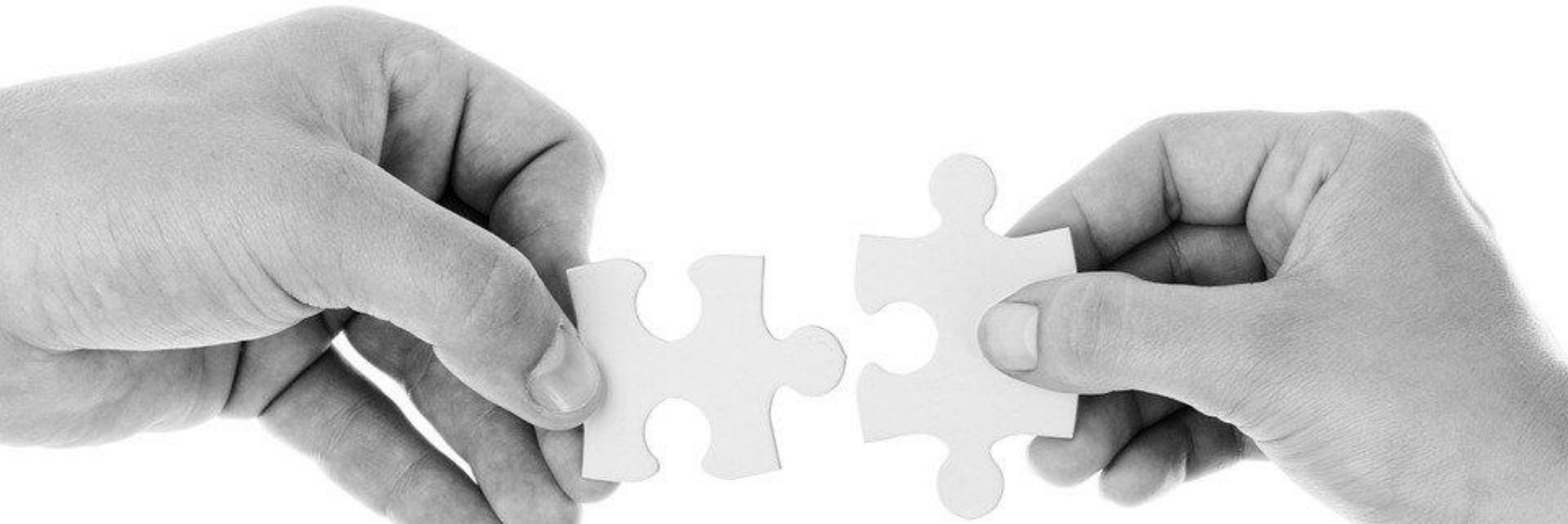
- Teachers
 - getting to know one another
 - sharing ideas, resources, and information
 - providing support
 - exploring a topic
- Could be:
 - structured • face-to-face • synchronous
 - unstructured • online • asynchronous




The background of the slide is a dark blue/black space filled with a complex, glowing network of thin blue lines that intersect to form a web-like pattern. Interspersed among these lines are numerous small, bright white and light blue dots, resembling stars or data points. A soft, ethereal green light emanates from the top center, creating a subtle gradient and highlighting the network structure.

Connecting with Other Teachers: Why?


**Why is it important to connect with
other teachers?**



- 
- professional growth
 - access to opportunities
 - learning through interaction
 - relationships bring happiness
 - provides ways to help others
 - fights burnout

The background of the slide is a dark, abstract composition. It features a dense network of thin, glowing blue lines that crisscross the frame, creating a web-like or neural network effect. Interspersed among these lines are numerous small, bright white and light blue dots, resembling stars or data points. A soft, ethereal green light emanates from the upper left corner, blending into the blue lines and adding a sense of depth and energy to the overall aesthetic.

Connecting with Other Teachers: How?



How to Connect with Other Teachers

- Get teachers together

- Cultivate your teacher network

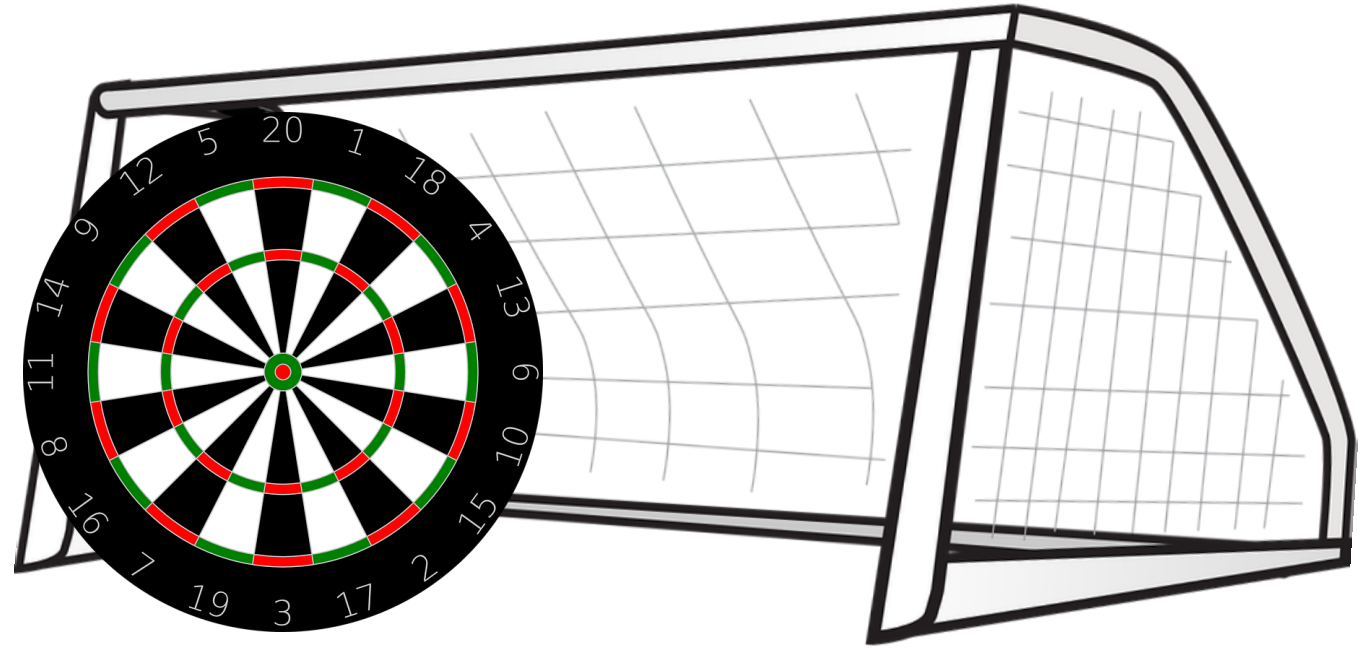


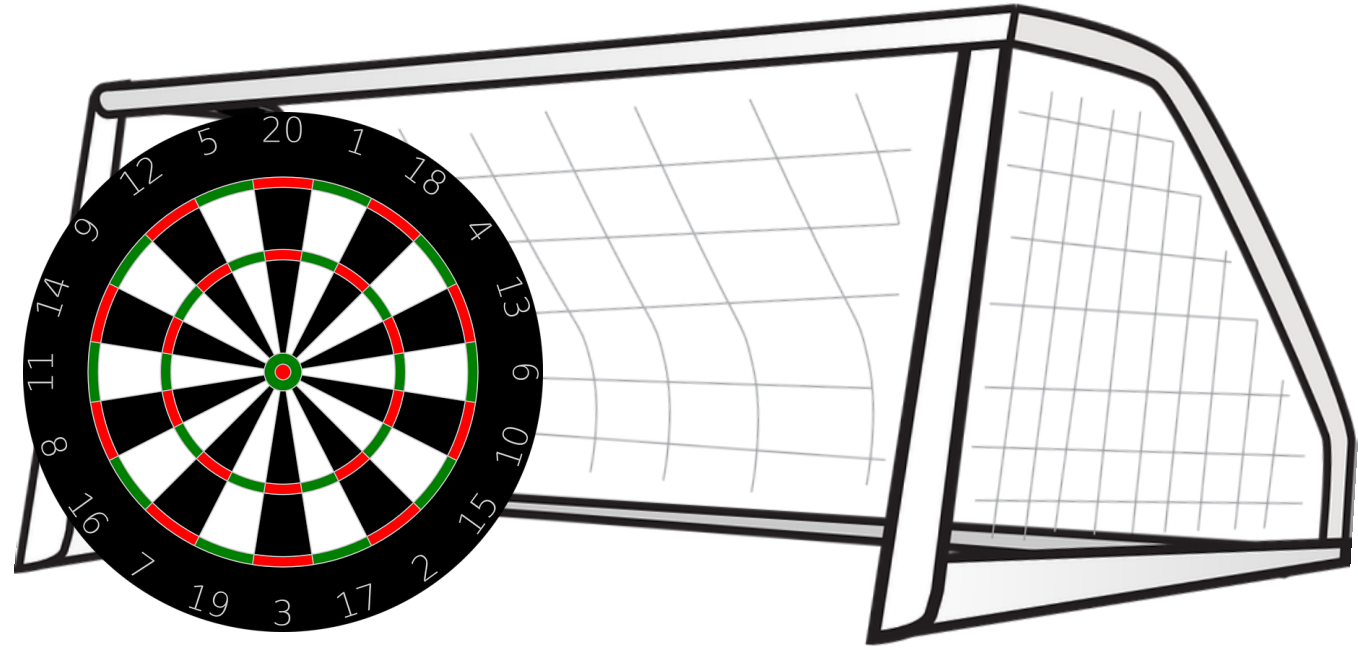
Get Teachers Together

- Specify the goal and activity
- Distribute responsibility
 - Be a leader
- Remove obstacles

Specify a Goal

- Connect and learn
 - Strengthen collaboration with fellow teachers
- Make specific improvements
 - to your curriculum
 - to your teaching methodology
 - to your school





Find a Matching Activity



- AE Live viewing party
- Lunch and learn
- Group problem solving
- Reading discussion group
- Peer observation
- Lesson study

Distribute Responsibility

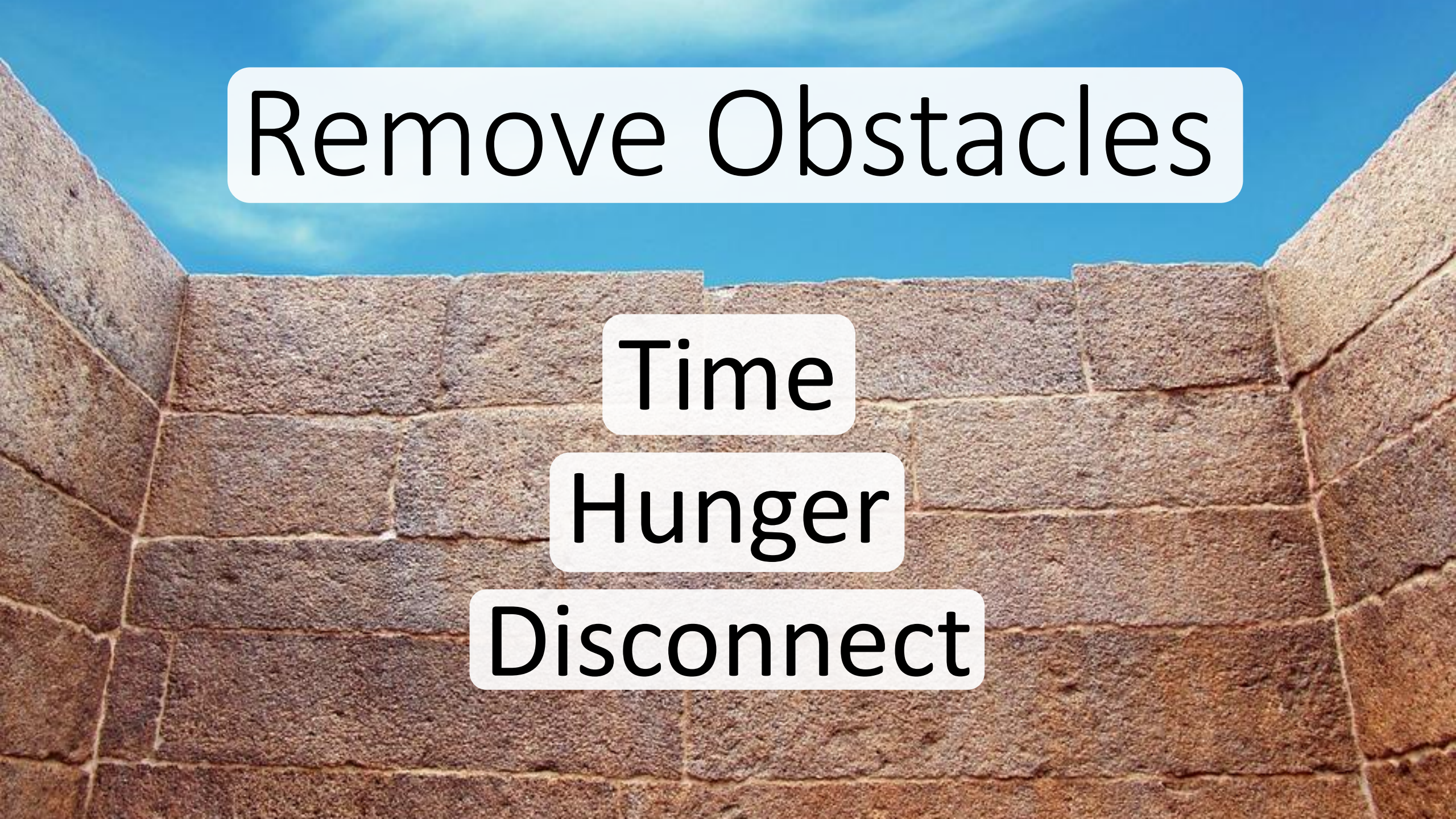
- Share responsibility for planning
- Distribute topic selection/discussion leadership
- Benefits:
 - More sustainable
 - More ownership





Be a Leader

- Find a place to meet (in person or online)
- Set the schedule
- Establish a routine
- Seek administrative support (e.g., time off for meetings, funding for food and resources)

The background of the image is a low-angle photograph of a weathered stone wall. The wall is constructed from large, rectangular, reddish-brown stone blocks. At the top of the wall, there is a significant gap or opening. Through this opening, a clear, bright blue sky is visible. The perspective is from inside the enclosure created by the wall, looking out towards the sky.

Remove Obstacles

Time

Hunger

Disconnect

Obstacle: Time

- Teachers are extremely busy.
- If a meeting requires a lot of preparation, teachers may not be able to participate.
- Consider ways teachers can learn together without a great deal of preparation.
- **Key: Keep it simple.**

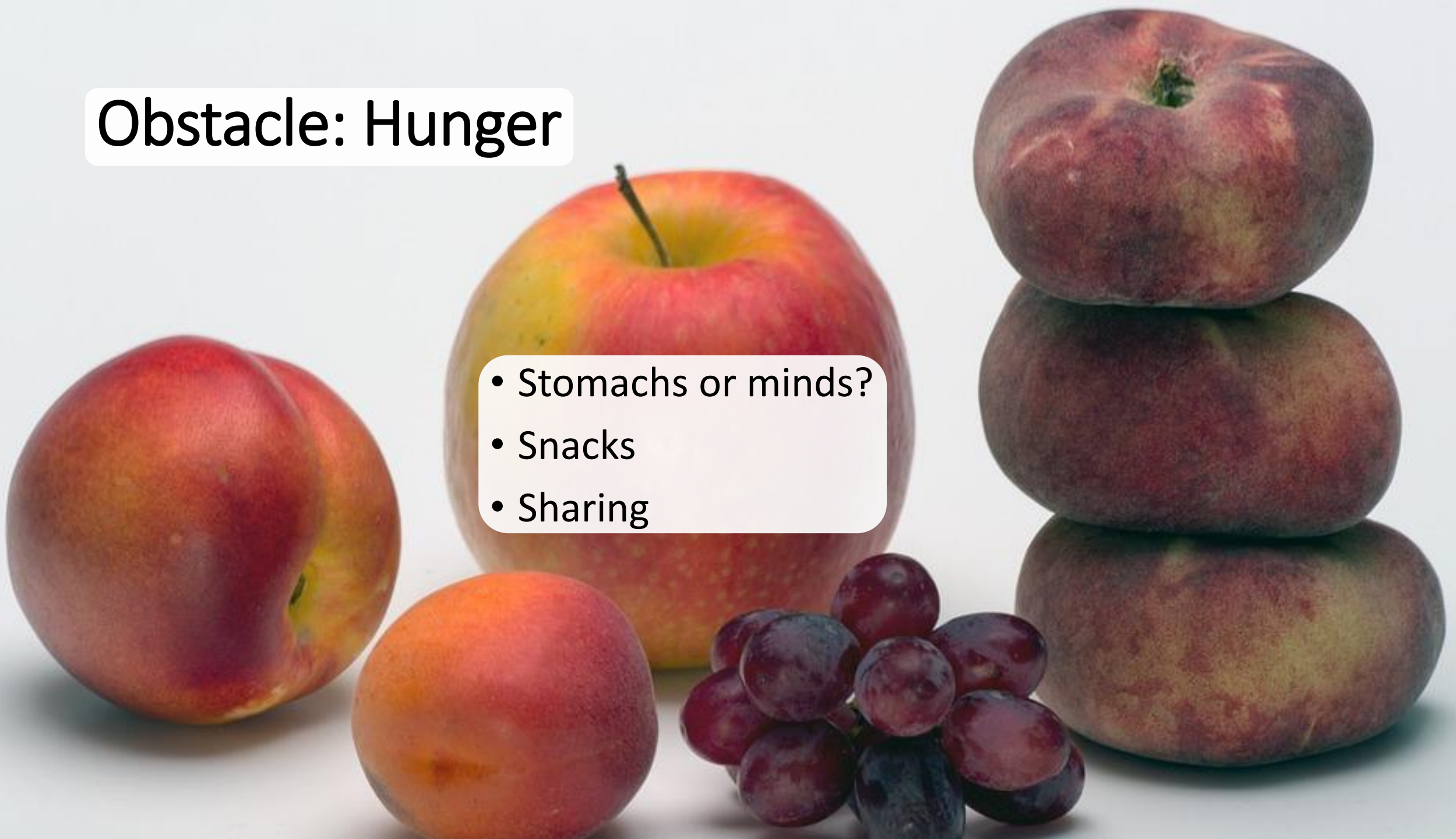


AE Live Viewing Party

- Join an online discussion before the event
- Look at the suggested readings
- Organize an in-person or virtual viewing group party
- Organize a discussion after the session, using the discussion questions provided at the end of the session

Obstacle: Hunger

- Stomachs or minds?
- Snacks
- Sharing





Lunch and Learn

- Breaking bread together helps people build connection
- As they eat together, teachers can discuss a particular topic
- The topic can be simple, with minimal preparation
 - favorite lesson ideas
 - things learned at a recent conference or teacher meeting
 - a short article

Obstacle: Disconnection

Teaching is said to be an **egg carton profession**.

Teachers tend to be **isolated** from one another as they work in their **separate classrooms**.

Teachers may also feel **uncomfortable discussing** their **teaching practices** and **participating** in activities with colleagues.



A close-up photograph of several brown eggs nestled in a white foam egg carton. The carton is open, and the eggs are arranged in their individual compartments. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the carton and eggs.

Build Community

- Include everyone
- Use icebreaker activities to help everyone learn about one another
- Celebrate what makes the group valuable
- Foster feelings of safety and acceptance

Cultivating Your Network



A close-up photograph of four white, oval-shaped eggs resting on a bed of dry, yellowish-brown straw. The eggs are arranged in a cluster, with one egg in the foreground slightly to the left, another to its right, and two more behind them. The straw is dry and fibrous, with some greenish-brown blades visible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the smooth texture of the eggs and the rough texture of the straw.

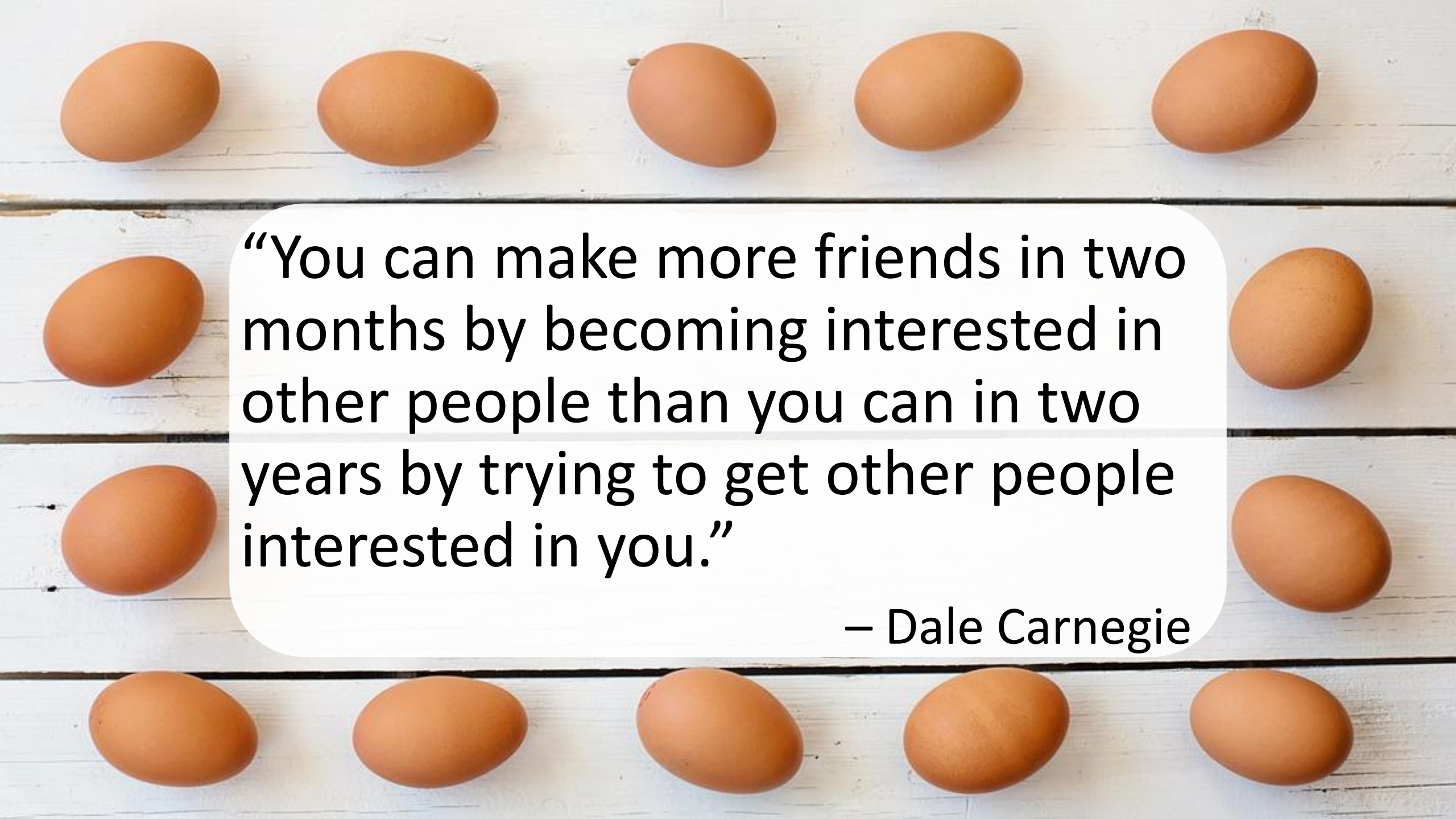
**What actions might you take to build
your network?**



Cultivate Your Network

Be
Interested
in People

Appreciate
your Existing
Network

The background of the image consists of a white wooden surface with horizontal planks. Scattered across this surface are approximately 18 brown eggs, arranged in a somewhat circular pattern around the central text box. The eggs are of various shades of brown and are positioned at different angles, some facing the viewer and others slightly turned.

“You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.”


– Dale Carnegie

Be Interested in People

- Learn
- Help
- Be a fan



Appreciate your Existing Network Within and Beyond the Carton

- 
- Co-workers
 - Fellow students
 - Former teachers

The background of the slide is a complex, abstract pattern of thin, glowing blue lines that intersect to form a dense network, resembling a neural network or a data visualization. The lines are set against a dark, almost black background, which is accented with soft, ethereal green and blue light flares and a subtle bokeh effect of small white and blue dots, giving it a high-tech, digital feel.

How to Learn From Other Teachers

How do you learn from other teachers?



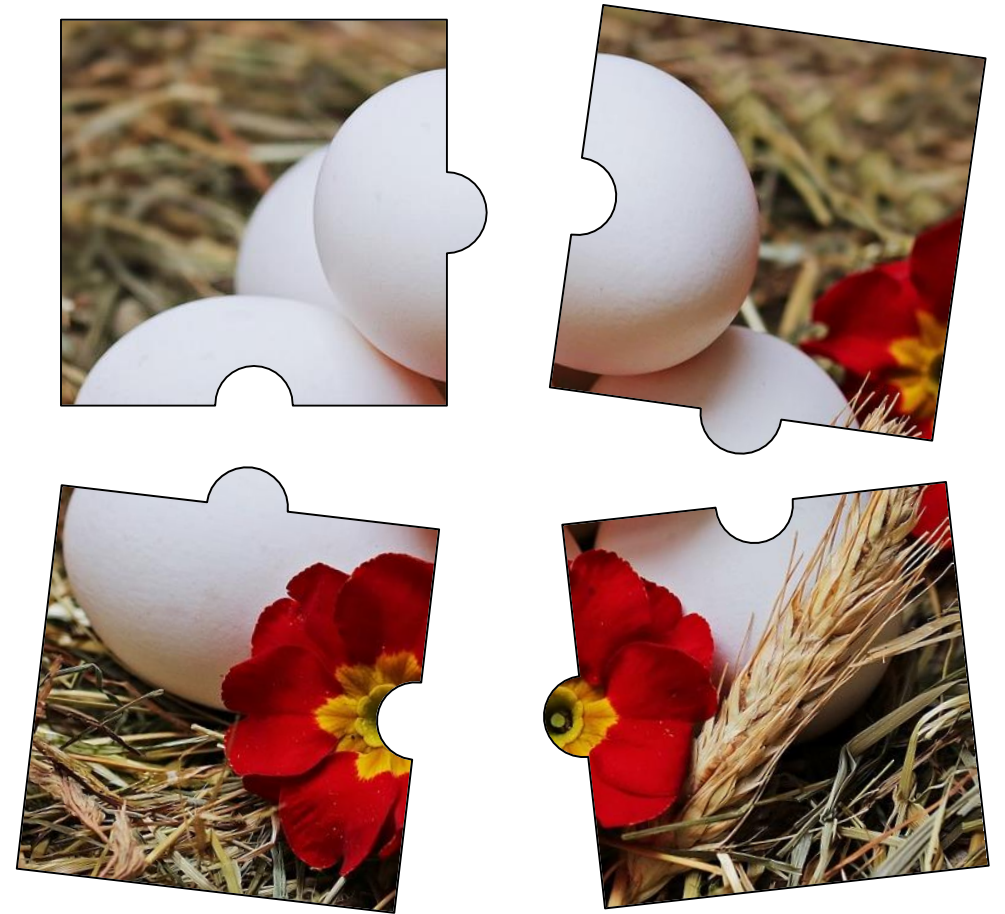
How to Learn From Other Teachers


- Collaborate
- Discuss inclusively
- Visit a classroom
- Seize opportunities



Collaborate

- All shared projects are learning opportunities
- Formal collaborative learning activities such as group projects and jigsaw activities can be especially effective



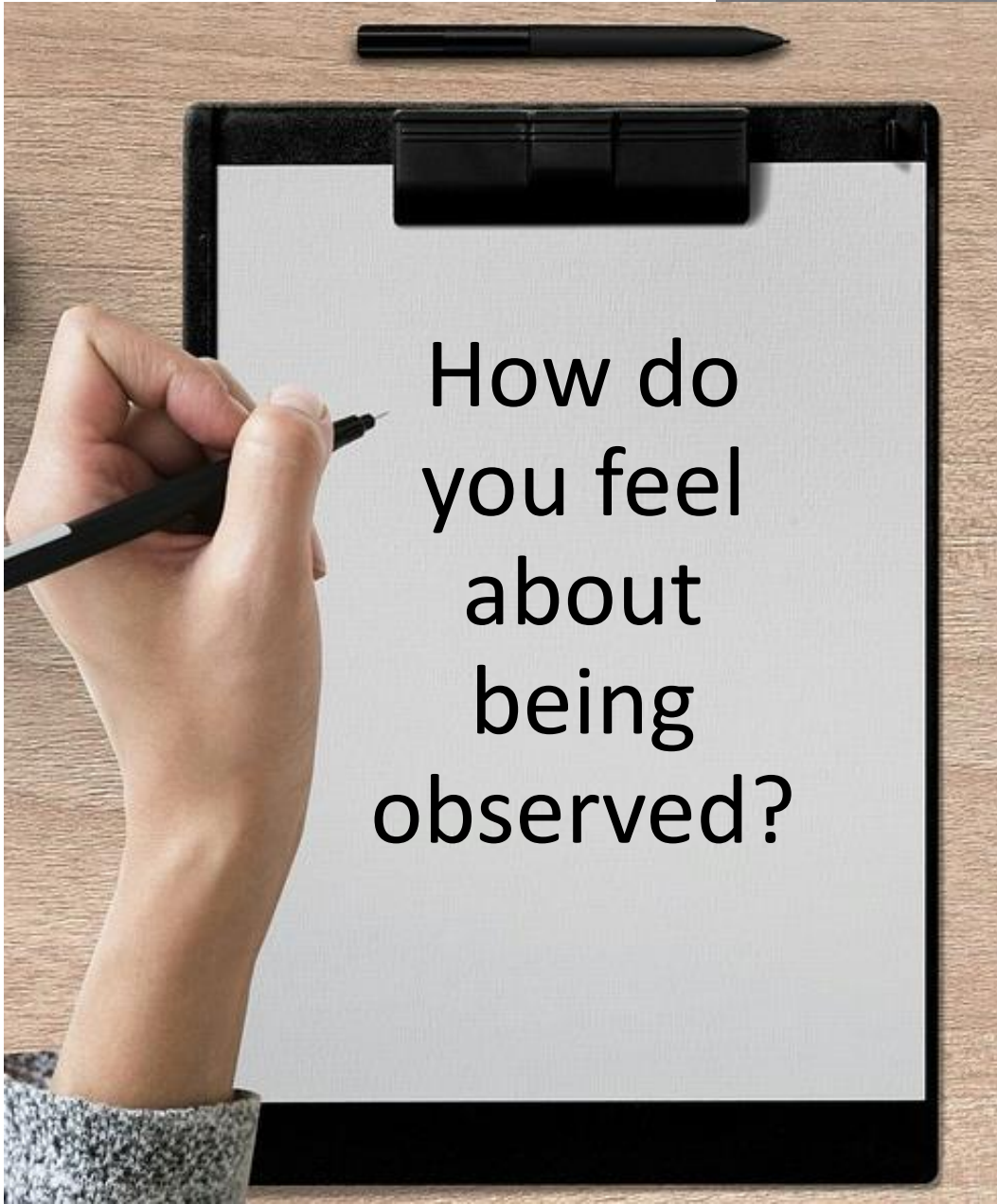


Use Inclusive Discussion Practices

- Don't call on the first volunteer
- Get multiple answers
- Avoid closure
- Use think/write-pair-share

Visit a Classroom



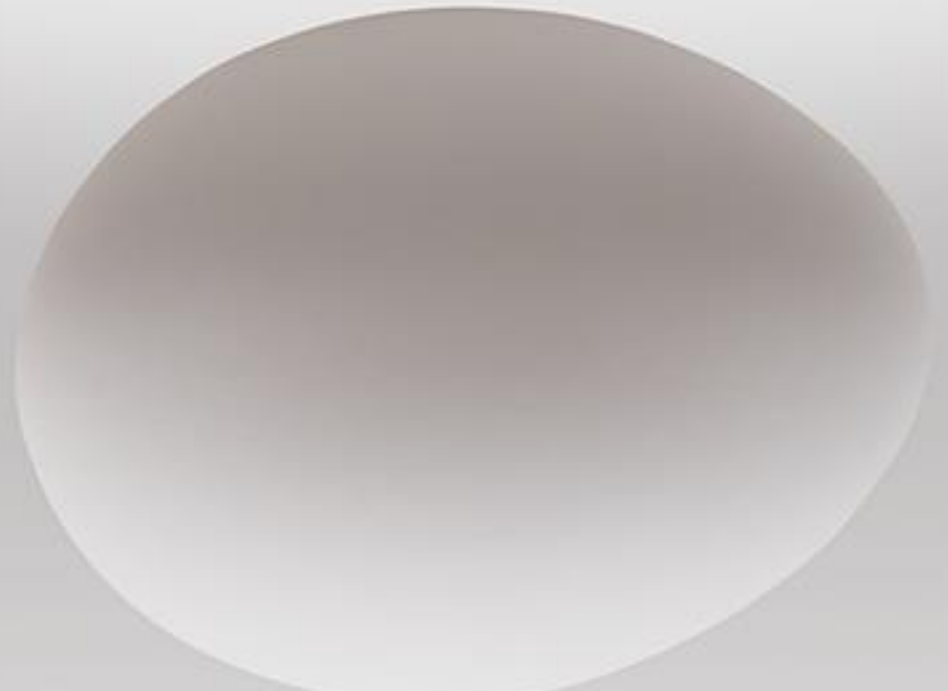


How do
you feel
about
being
observed?



“Seeing
you allows
me to see
myself
differently
and to
explore
variables
we both
use.”

(Fanselow, 1998)



A photograph of a modern conference room. In the foreground, a large, light-colored wooden conference table is partially visible, surrounded by several black office chairs. In the background, there is a large whiteboard on a stand, a projector mounted on the ceiling, and a window with a potted plant. A white arrow with a blue outline points from the left towards the center of the room, containing the text 'Seize Opportunities'.

Seize Opportunities

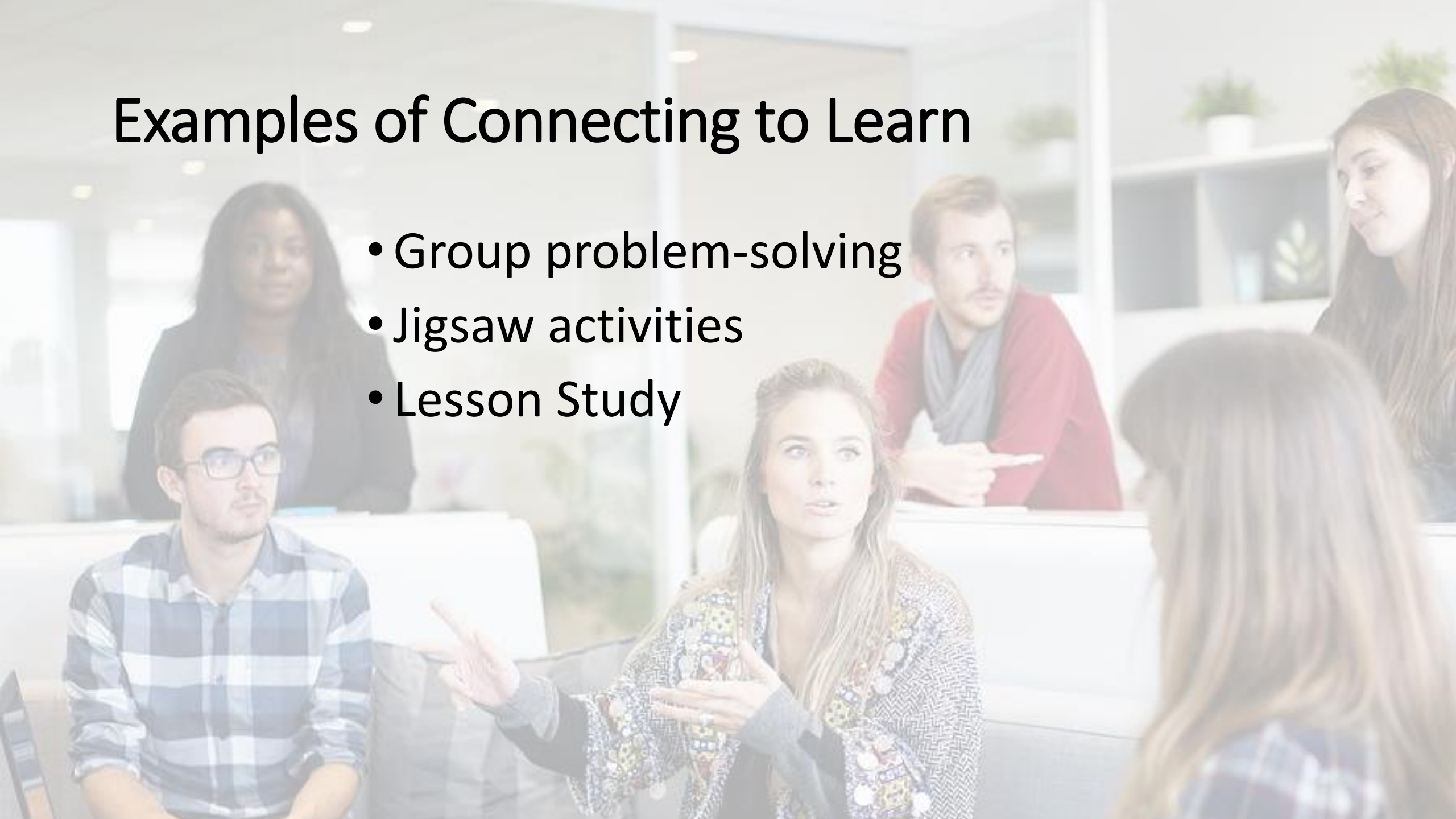
- Be where people are
- Arrive early, stay late
- Be active

The background of the slide is a complex, abstract pattern of thin, glowing blue lines that form a dense, interconnected web. This web is set against a dark, almost black, background. Interspersed within the web are numerous small, bright white dots, resembling stars or data points. A soft, ethereal green light emanates from the upper left corner, creating a gradient that fades into the dark background. The overall effect is one of a vast, interconnected network or a digital landscape.

Practical Applications

Examples of Connecting to Learn

- Group problem-solving
- Jigsaw activities
- Lesson Study



Group Problem-Solving

Step 1:

Pose open question

What are common challenges in the classroom?

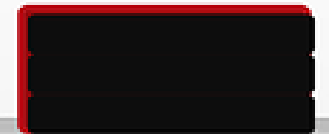
Step 2:

Brainstorm ideas

- Lack of time
- ✓ • Assessment in large classes
- ✓ • Engagement in multi-level classes
- Classroom management

Step 3:

Vote on (2) most interesting challenges

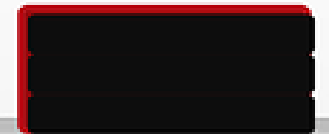


Group Problem-Solving

Step 4: Divide into teams. Each team discusses solutions/actions for one problem

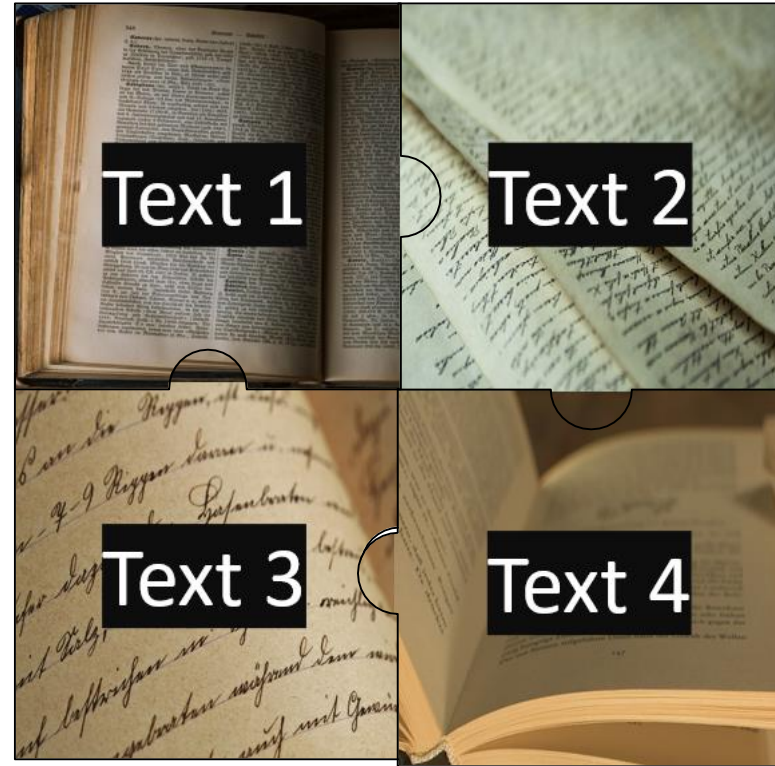
Step 5: Teams share their ideas with the group

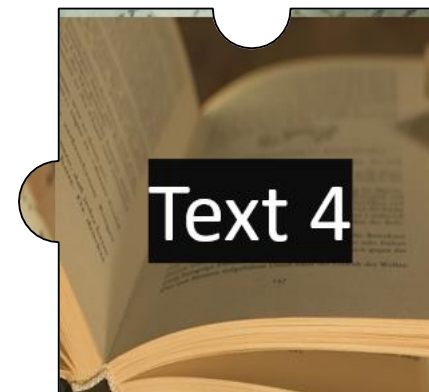
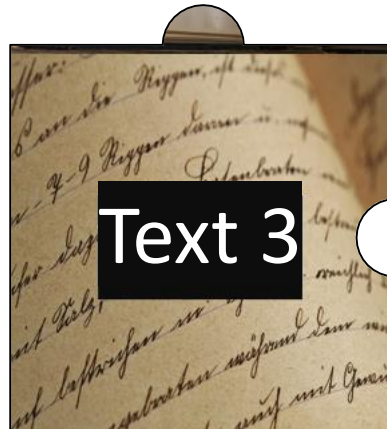
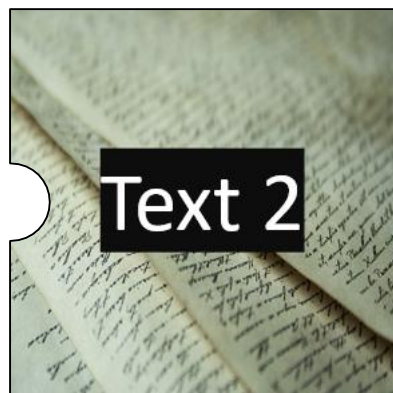
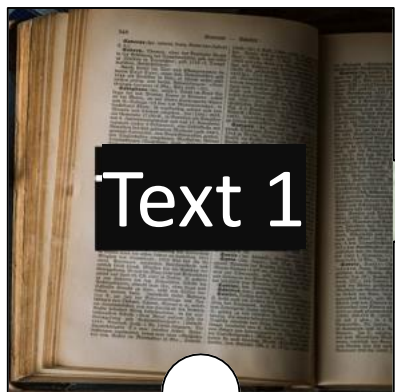
Step 6: Discuss and consider future actions



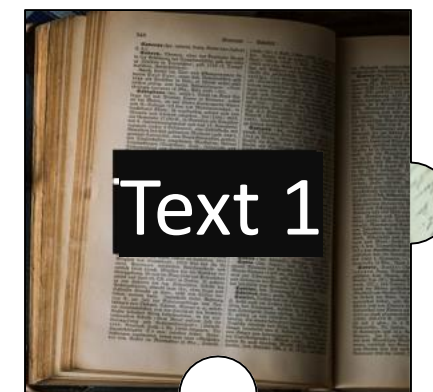
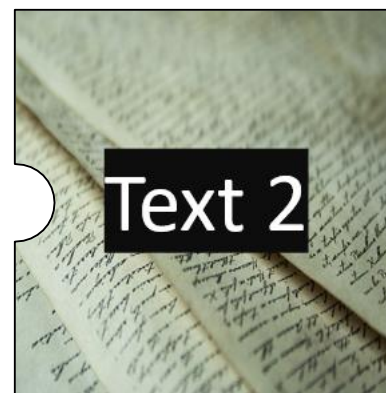
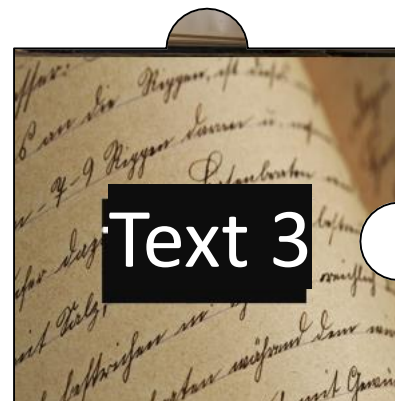
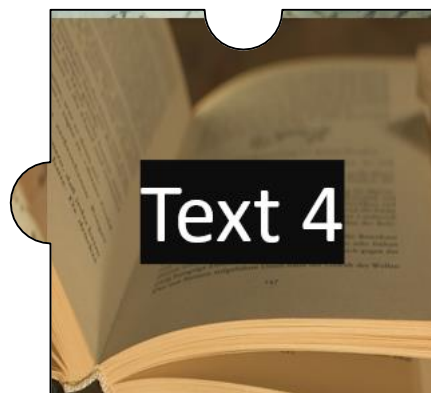
Jigsaw Activities

Pick (4) simple readings on associated topics,
or pick one reading that
has (4) distinct parts

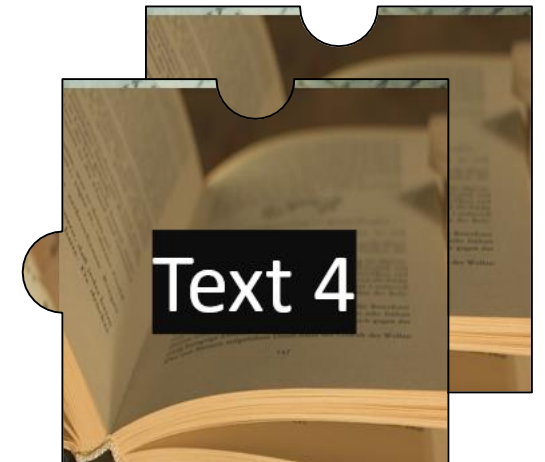
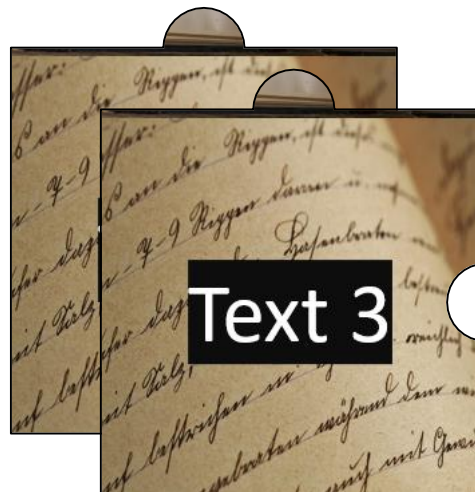
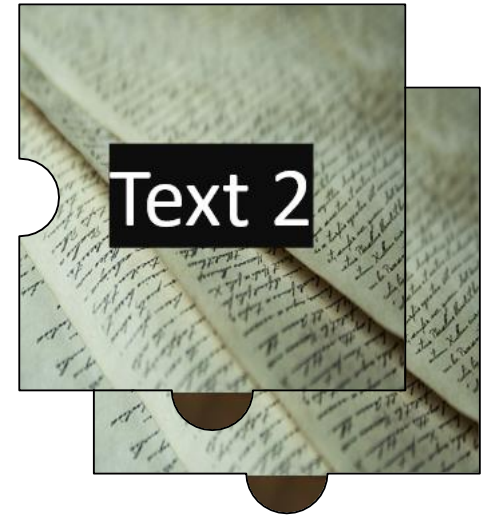
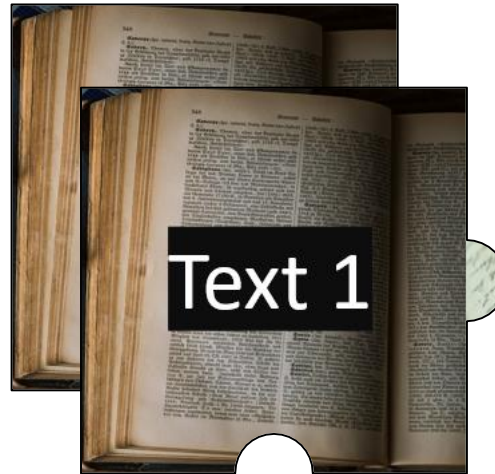




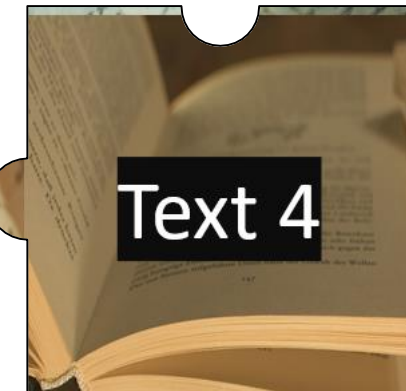
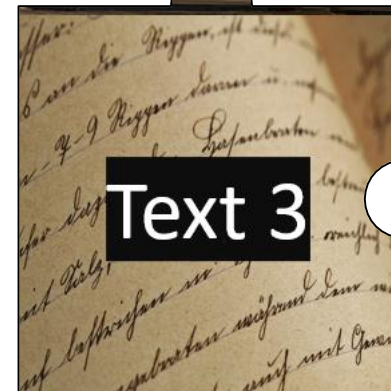
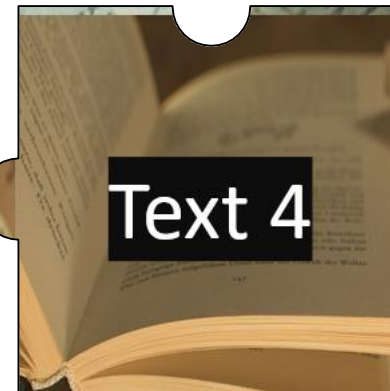
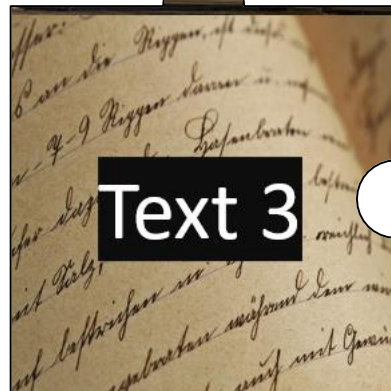
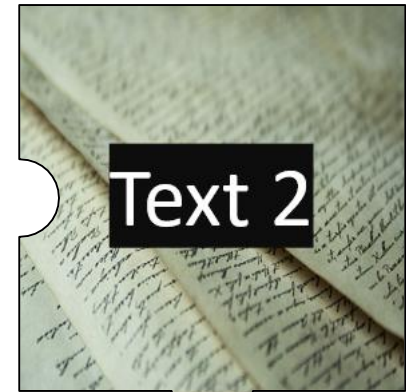
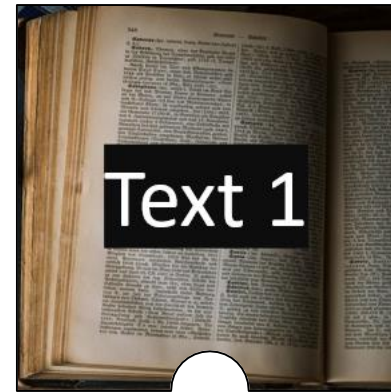
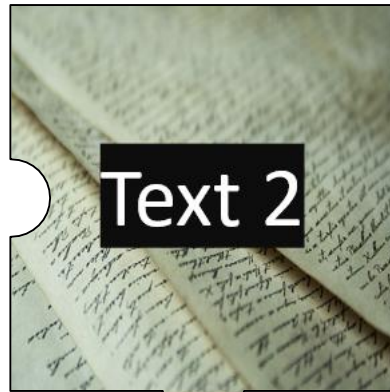
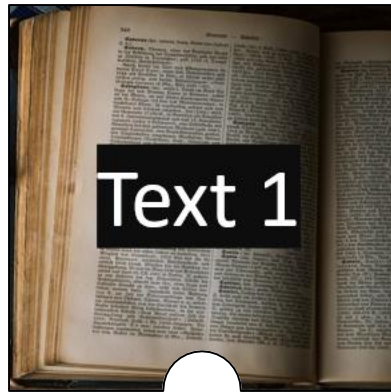
Distribute the readings evenly
so that **each participant is
responsible for reading only
one of the four texts**



People who have read
the same text sit
together to **identify key
points** and agree on
how to **summarize it**



Mix into new groups where **each member leads discussion** of a different text



Lesson Study

Step 1: A team of teachers **develops a lesson** that is useful for all of their classes

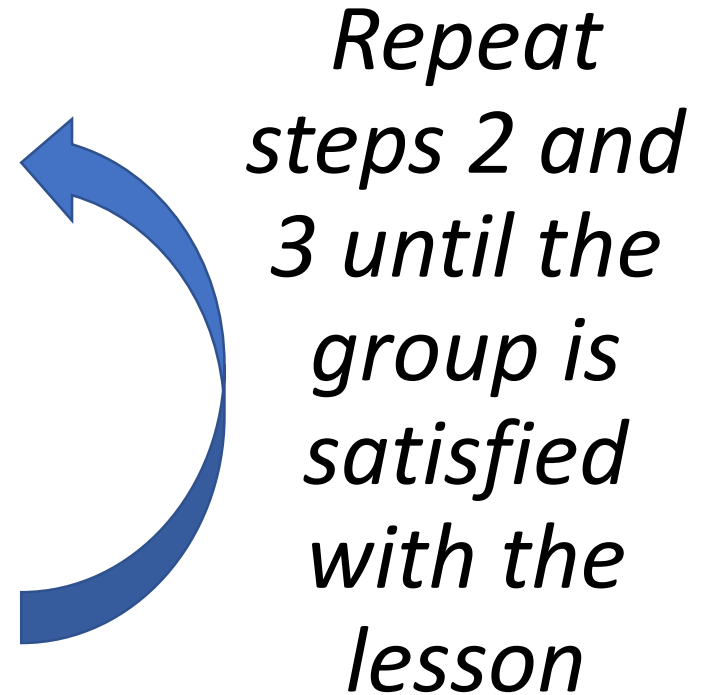


Step 2: One teacher uses the lesson in class while being **observed** by the other teachers



Step 3: The teachers **discuss** the lesson and make refinements

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the group is satisfied with the lesson



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Summing Up




Get Teachers Together

- Specify the goal and activity
- Distribute responsibility
- Be a leader



Remove Obstacles

Time
Hunger
Disconnect



Cultivate Your Network

Be
Interested
in People

Appreciate
your Existing
Network

Learn From Other Teachers

- Collaborate
- Discuss inclusively
- Visit a classroom
- Seize opportunities





Mehr Verbrauchersicherheit in der Eierherzeugung
In allen EU-Mitgliedstaaten wurde die Kennzeichnung der Eier vereinheitlicht. Für jeden einzelnen Konsumenten bedeutet das noch mehr Sicherheit beim Eierkauf. Auf jedem einzelnen Ei befindet sich eine Identifikationsnummer, die Informationen zu Haltungsform und Herkunft des Eies gibt und eine komplette Rückverfolgbarkeit bis zum Legebetrieb gewährleistet.
Was bedeutet die Code-Nummer auf dem Ei?

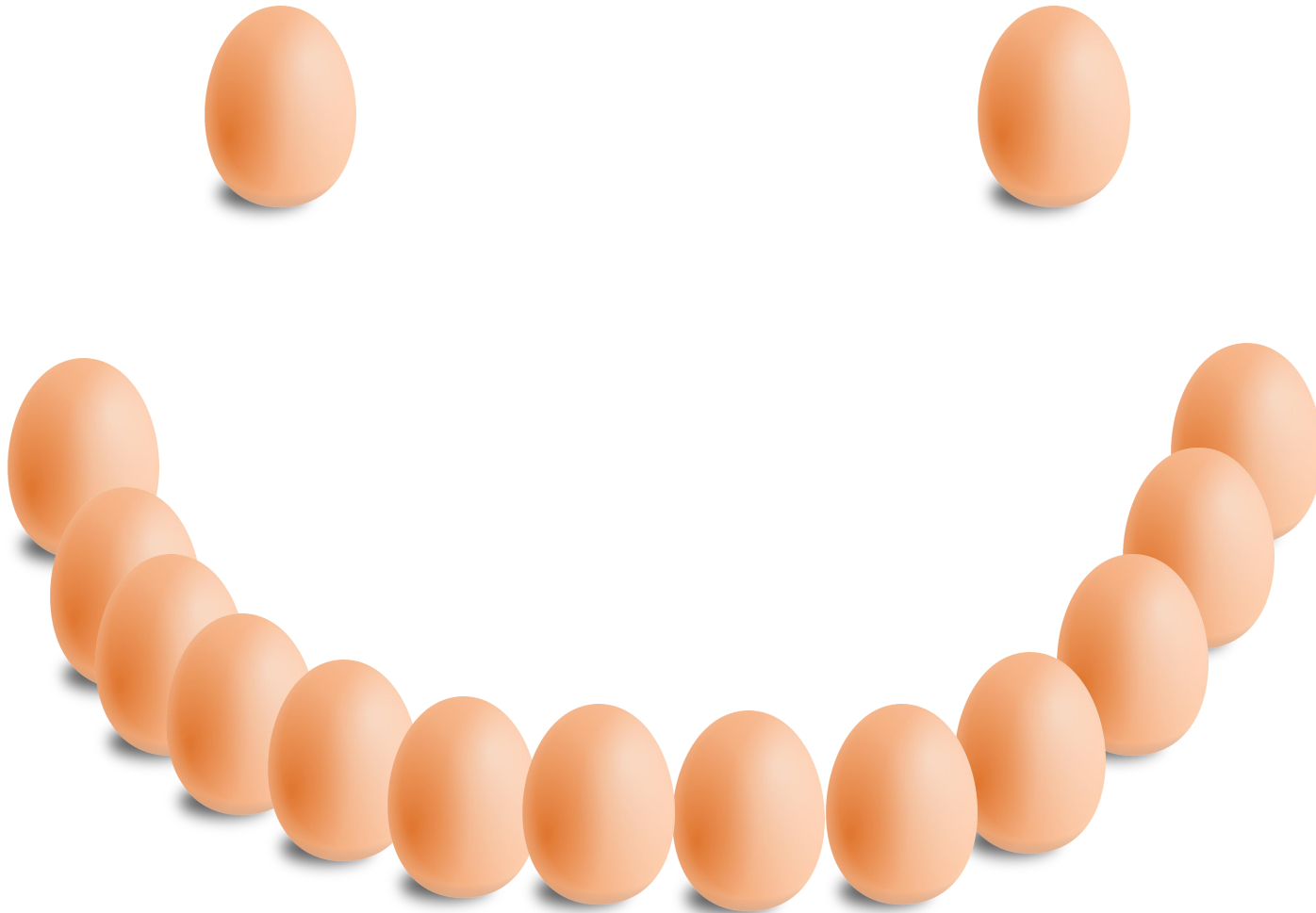
Haltungsform
0 - Biol. Erzeugung
1 - Freilandhaltung
2 - Doppelhaltung
3 - Käfighaltung

Herkunftsland
DE - Deutschland
BE - Belgien
NL - Niederlande
FR - Frankreich

Ziffer-Buchstaben-Ziffern

Legebetrieb mit Stallnummer
Die registrierte Nummer
des Legebetriebs und des Stalls

Spread Happiness





Connecting to Learn

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References

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Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. It is important to connect and learn from teachers within a professional network. How might you take the concepts learned today and apply them to cultivating your own professional network?
2. What aspects of being part of an active professional network do you find most beneficial? What aspects do you find challenging?
3. What advice would you give to a new member of your professional network?



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